

## The Alexandria Gazette

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26.

Mr. Hayes of Chicago, has published a letter from the late Senator Douglas, written Dec. 29th, 1860, in which he says the South would take his proposed amendments to the Constitution, and adds:—"Many of the republican leaders desire a dissolution of the Union, and urge war as a means of accomplishing disunion; while others are Union men in good faith. We have now reached the point where a compromise on the basis of mutual concession, or disunion and war, are inevitable. I prefer a fair and just compromise."

Such a day, in January, as this, has not often before been seen in our latitude. The fine weather, like that we have in spring, drew out an unusual concourse of passengers, on the streets. King street, for its whole length, appeared to be crowded all the morning.

It is said in the N. Y. Tribune that Gen. Butler is soon to assume command of the Department of the Gulf, to have his headquarters at New Orleans, and to co-operate with Gen. McClernand in the latter's movements.

A dispatch from Wheeling, to the Baltimore American, states that the Legislature at Wheeling has elected Samuel J. Bowden, of Williamsburg, to the U. S. Senate, Mr. Willey declined being a candidate.

A fire occurred in New York, on Saturday, which destroyed a portion of the City Hall, including the Council chamber. The books and papers belonging to it were saved. The loss is unascertained.

RELEASED.—Mr. Jacob Roxbury, who was arrested about three weeks ago, and sent to the Old Capitol prison, in Washington, has been released, and has returned home.

The telegraphic dispatch from General Burnside's army, dated yesterday, says that no movement has been made.

There was a reconnoissance and skirmish near Williamsburg last week—Gen. Wise is said to be at the White House in New Kent.

Reports are prevailing at the North that Gen. McClellan is to be court martialed, or something else done in his case.

We received to-day the Wheeling Press from the 17th to the 21st inst.

Gold, in New York, on Saturday, 149½.

Gen. Burnside was in Washington on Saturday, and had an interview with President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton, and Gen. Halleck.

Mrs. Lincoln's "Saturday afternoon reception," on Saturday last, was well attended.

M. Bouigny, of New Orleans, denies the statement going the rounds, about his testimony as to the recent election in that city.

The Northern papers quote from the Richmond Examiner an article giving a discouraging view of matters in the South in the progress of the present war, as it gives them pleasure.

The Commissioned Officers in the Army of Western Virginia are to have their proficiency tested, during the winter, by a commission, consisting of Brigadier General Moor, Lieut. Colonel Comly of the 23d Ohio, and Major Comly of the 12th Ohio.

## FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore American.]

OPPOSITE FREDERICKSBURG, Jan 24.—The telegraph has doubtlessly announced already to the public, that the attempted movement across the Rappahannock is a failure, and from my position opposite Fredericksburg and near headquarters, the whole country on this side of the river is seen dotted with the troops slowly wending their way back to their old localities, the long trains of wagons and artillery sticking occasionally, stopped by the "miring down" of wagon or gun. In such case the whole movement is delayed for a brief space, until teams are added or the soldiers wade off through the sea of mire to the rescue. Ten horses to a small field piece or to a single army wagon is no unusual sight for the nonce, whilst the drivers and escort splashed from head to foot with the "sacred soil," toil slowly onward as best they may. On all sides are seen dead horses and mules, whose ghastly carcasses testify to the terrible service and the scant care that can given them in the severe weather experienced in winter quarters of late; whilst the all but collapsed sides of many of the resonant yet on their legs, in harness or spurred onward mercilessly by military despatch riders to the various divisions or corps, give a sad warrant that yet more of them will fall victims to the situation before the winter is at an end, or the army leaves for other localities.—Of the men, a much more encouraging view may be taken. Man is an animal who can fight his own way to supplies if they are within reach; but the contrast betwixt the biped and the quadruped strikes one very forcibly when the latter having appropriated the last pine leaf within reach, patiently busies himself with nibbling the splinters from the stump where he is tied, fixing his appealing looks on the passing soldiers as he awaits relief.

Of the movement preliminary to an intended attack on Lee's army in compliance with the recent army order of Gen. Burnside, it is not necessary to say much. Nothing could be accomplished of moment without artillery, and the condition of the roads has been such as to render it impossible to get supplies of heavy munitions where most wanted in an emergency, another proof of the ruinous consequences or those delays to move forward whilst good weather afforded the opportunity to do so. Indeed I am told this morning that so impossible has it been to send supply trains to the extreme right, that the cavalry have been put in requisition to carry bread at least thither, until the troops can be returned to their old quarters nearer the line of the railroad. Meanwhile the Confederates across the river have given unmistakable evidence in various ways of their exultation at the failure of the attempt, having, it is said, erected sign boards with inscriptions upon them, taunting our pickets with the result. Still the belief is prevalent that the failure is but temporary, that the spell which has so long lain upon this magnificent army is about to be broken. Not feeling at liberty to put these rumors in definite shape I shall not give them; yet no one here seems to think that the old camps will hold the soldiers long, but that at the first possible opportunity, when the roads are in good order, some movement forward will be again attempted. The visit of

Gen. Burnside to Washington this evening, and other indications, point in the same direction.

Along the bank of the river the Confederate pickets still pace their rounds, showing their usual watchfulness; but no bodies of troops often appear permanently within view. Occasionally some large bodies are seen above the crest of the hills, as if moving about, but the comparative desertion of the other shore presents a great contrast to the swarming thousands which cover the whole country on this side at present.

Meanwhile, Spring is approaching rapidly; its first indications here being the notes of the blackbird and thrush; with a softer air since the rain has abated, and the mist passed away. Whatever is to be done dependent on the "two years men," will have to be done quickly, twenty-one months of their time having already run out.

A bill will shortly be reported in the House for the erection of Shona Territory, which will include within its limits that portion of the territory formerly belonging to Oregon and occupied by the Shoshone Indians, and all of Nebraska west of the 27th degree from Washington, and that portion of Dacotah Territory lying south of the 40th parallel of latitude.

The Secretary of War has concluded to dispense with Assistant Secretaries of War and reorganize his department. Messrs. Tucker and Watson's terms have expired. Mr. Tucker gave a dinner to some of his friends, on Saturday, and will leave for Philadelphia tomorrow.

Hon. C. L. Vallandigham has consented to run for Governor of Ohio, if nominated by the democratic convention.

It is not certain that the finance bill will pass as amended by the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. The substitute of Mr. Stevens, as essentially modified, has many friends.

A letter from Joseph N. Goldsborough, deputy provost marshal, to Marshal McPhail, announces the capture of a sloop called Hard Times, containing sacks of salt, and boxes containing 300 reams of writing paper, about to run the blockade.

The steamer City of Baltimore, which sailed from New York for Liverpool on Saturday, took out \$516,564 in specie.

Harriet A. McLaughlin, of Chicago, as's for a divorce from Henry A., her husband.—is only 11 years old, and has been married but a single month.

The International Relief Committee have put 2,000 barrels of flour on board the ship Arkwright which will sail for Liverpool this week. The James Adger, jr., which has cleared for Liverpool, takes out 1,000 barrels from the same source. About \$10,000 are still in the hands of the committee, awaiting disbursement.

By the arrival of the steamer Ariel from Aspinwall at New York yesterday, we have news from South America to the effect that the civil war in New Grenada has ended.

No move has yet been taken to rebuild Aspinwall which has recently been destroyed by fire. American gold has declined at Panama to two and a half per cent.

Provost marshal Hamlin of Rhode Island, estimates that there are now about eight hundred deserters from Rhode Island regiments.—He has arrested and returned to their regiments from that and other States between eight and nine hundred deserters and stragglers.